

# BRASSPOUNDER

*November 2007*



*For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge*

*Welcome to the November edition.*

Apologies for the lateness of the edition

Another month rolls by, and here we are entering the final month of the year. I've been looking back over the past months, and I see a healthy increase of members becoming more active on air. I've wondered at the beginning of each year whether my typing fingers and your input would run dry of topics for the newsletter each month, but it hasn't been the case. I thank all of you for taking time to send in your reports/observations and general news each month to keep Brasspounder going. It seems that our monthly offering is read via the internet by amateurs outside of FISTS! I say this because of the irregular emails I have from others asking me to promote their particular forthcoming event. It's always a pleasure to promote any event perpetuating the use of CW.

I've received news of a new event for 2008 from Laurent. F8BBL. Who informs me of something that may interest the Qrp'ers amongst us. Firstly you have to register your interest [HERE](#) And you will get more information. Basically, it 's a Qrp/portable challenge where entrants are encouraged to do "RNW" Radio, Nature & Walking. (Judging by the literal French to English translation) And have fun! It is an informal affair, with no club or association involved. It does cater for fixed and portable Qrp operation with emphasis on Km per watt operation, plus you can upload your results to the site and let everyone know how you're doing throughout the year. Enough from me, take a look at the link above and judge for yourself.

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Also I'd like to make you aware of an excellent News Group started by FISTS member MØJRQ. Here's the link to the site. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/antexp/>

This is a NG for all interested in experimentation and building of amateur aeriels/antennas. If you've interest and experience and would like to learn or share your experiences. Chris would like to hear from you. Here's a brief overview of the aims of the Newsgroup.

"AntExp is for anyone who experiments with radio antennas - low frequency, high frequency, VHF and UHF.

It doesn't matter whether you say aerial or antenna or whether you are trying to pack great performance into a minimum space or you're filling your country estate with a Beveridge. If you are designing, analyzing, making or using antennas, you're welcome."

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Lets take a look at this months "Postbag" I will say to Peter G3JFS, many thanks for making GXØIPX operational during November! Many comments with "A real bonus getting the club station in the log"

From Chris. MØJRQ. Who has been testing a Linear loaded dipole for 80m. I hope Chris will let us know of his thoughts about the viability of the aerial in a later article.

Robert,

Please find attached my ladder log for November - A quiet month. I haven't spent much time on the air at all during November and, on the two ladder Sundays, the bands have seemed quiet in the extreme. Sadly though, when 80m did come to life later in the day today, it was full of contesters. On this second of the November ladder Sundays I have been trying out a linear loaded 80m dipole - it's only about 15 feet from end to end and built on plastic water pipe. The antenna did seem to perform at least as well as my end fed and, after its first outing today, probably deserves a bit more height and some further testing.

Chris MØJRQ

Thanks for your report Chris, lets hope that December will let you test the aerial to its full potential.

From Derek. MØDRK

Hi Robert.

Here is my log for November, working the club station GXØIPX a real bonus! Thanks to Peter for running it this month. Good to hear and work Bob. G6GUN again. And thanks to all the other stations that gave me points. Seemed to be a lot of contesting going on during the second session.

73. Derek. MØDRK.

Nice to hear from you again Derek. Had quite a few mails saying that the club call on air was a pleasant surprise.

From Peter. G4LHI.

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim for the November ladder, only managed one Sunday this month, very many thanks to all members I worked & was very pleased to work our National Club Station operated by Peter in Plymouth to boost my score & hope Peter had a nice lot of QSO's during the event. Was very nice to hear Bob G6GUN active again after a long period of no radio activity & hope we will be hearing more of him again now.

73. Peter. G4LHI

Always a pleasure to hear from you Peter. Certainly very pleasing to hear that G6GUN had popped back up during the ladder session.

From Goeran. SMØPMJ

Hello Robert.

Enclosed my WARC Activity log. Was pleased to work Peter with FISTS National Club call GXØIPX. Also gave 2x2 CQ's and very pleased to meet my "Old" friend Clyde, W8EGB from Michigan. (Conditions were obviously good) who answered my call immediately. My Inv Vee and 40w did a reasonably good job.

73. Goeran.

Good to hear that you managed to work Peter with the National Club Station. The bands do certainly seem to be improving of late.

From Peter. G4LHI

Hello Robert,

I have attached my November WARC Band Challenge, not quite as good a claim or report as I usually submit, I hope things will improve, if not for December, for the New Year & very pleased to see you have included the WARC Challenge again for 2008. I did manage to work two new Fists squares this month, 9A4MF Miro 8313 in JN 85 & dear Erkki 8318 on his travels, OH7QR/P in KP 51, many thanks to these members & all members & non members that make up my score of 54 points with 40 QSO's for November. I did just manage to find David VK3DBD, 3756 in QF33 once, conditions not to good but thanks again David & sorry not to have been about much in the early

hours during this month. Nice to find Peter in Plymouth using the National Club Call GX0IPX Nr 01 & remembered only to claim 3 points for the WARC Band event.

73. Peter. G4LHI.

Always a pleasure to hear from with your report Peter. Heard from Martin, IK2RMZ and he commented that his best band of operation for him was 30m during November. He commented; "By the time he'd got home from his work, 17 & 12m had already closed for the day" Did any other other EU participant notice this?

From Stan. K4UK.

Hi Robert.

I spent some time this month in various contests. In the ARRL Phone Sweepstakes, I even ran QRP. I did run QRO (15 Watts) in the CQ World-Wide DX contest, but am running QRP in the ARRL 160 Meter contest this weekend.

Biggest kick this month was working HC8N on 10.106 MHz running my little KX1 at 4 Watts. And of course working Milan, S58MU on the 14th on 10.117 MHz to get his JN76 multiplier was a thrill also. Also with W4FCR, running QRO at 15 Watts, I worked Leif, QZ1EUO on 10.119 MHz to get his JO46 multiplier.

Will give you more info on my K4UK / VP9 operation when I get my permit. Am thinking now of taking the K2 because I would like to get into the Canada Winter Contest on December 29.

73, Stan - K4UK

For those who are unaware. Stan will be in Bermuda from the 24th of December 2007 till the 2nd of January 2008.

He hopefully will operate in the Canada Winter Contest on December 29 and maybe even the ARRL Straight Key Night on January 1. Plus some time on the WARC's. I think this operation to be in grid FM72. So I hope you'll be able to get Stan while he's there.

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I've received a very excellent report from Peter. G3JFS who, as you may know put GXØIPX on air during November, to give members the chance to work one of the national club calls, and of course to publicise FISTS to CW community within Amateur Radio.

GX0IPX was operated from Plymouth by G3JFS from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007 aiming to publicise the club and to give members the chance to work Fists #0001. I

was on the air most days and although conditions were generally poor I logged 274 contacts with 89 countries including 67 members (+2 ex-members) in 18 countries:

Band	All	1.8	3.5	7	10	14	18	21	24	28
QSO Totals	274	24	108	32	52	16	26	16	0	1
Countries Worked	89	16	26	27	28	15	17	15	0	1
Members Worked	67	0	52	3	7	1	6	0	0	0

As was to be expected 80m provided the most contacts and the most member contacts. 24 MHz never opened and the single contact on 28 MHz was just a quick exchange with V51AS during the CQWW contest. I concentrated on the WARC bands when these were open and was pleased to work dx members Joop P43JB #10460, John PJ4/K4BAI #2158 and Larry VQ9LA #11671 on 18MHz. Altogether six USA members made it into the log - Ed K1GDH #3490, Jim K4WOP #5431, Alan K8CW #5242 on 18 MHz and Don K2MEN #11067, Larry W4OGZ #3254 and Mike WB9DLC #11145 on 3.5 MHz. Now-a-days it can be difficult to avoid rubber stamp qsos but a lot of my contacts were rag-chews and it was a pleasure also to meet with some relative newcomers to cw, both members and non-members. I hope that in a small way the operation helped some of these operators to gain a little more confidence. GX0IPX attracted a lot of interest and I had many encouraging remarks like below: 'I am so pleased to work Fists Nr 0001 at last^It's great to work GX0IPX again after such a long time^My last GX0IPX qso was 12 years ago with Geo ^Long life to cw^A pleasure to work the Club Station^Thanks for your patience with my slow cw^Congrats to the Fists club for helping to keep cw alive^I only use a paddle but on hearing NUMBER ONE I just had to reply with a straight key^Fists is a good club to promote morse code' And a final comment on the log from John, M0CDL, who holds the GX0IPX licence: 'Nice to see a fair smattering of new members as well as some old faces.' 73 Peter, G3JFS  
Fists #8985

P.S. I had one request I am not planning to act on for a long while yet - a station replied and called me Geo. After telling him Geo was now a silent key I got the following reply: '... sorry to hear about Geo, please qsp my 73 the next time you see him'!!!

Your "Request" is something all at FISTS do not want you to do for many years to come! (Hi)

On behalf of all at FISTS I'd like to thank you for taking time to put the call on air. As you'll have read from earlier comments from members, it was a special moment for them when GX0IPX was heard. The comments received by yourself (Excluding the "PS") Was very encouraging.

From a personal point of view. I wonder if the "Gloom and doom" prophesied by one or two regarding the demise of CW when the requirement was lifted for access to the HF Spectrum will ever happen? CW still seems to be gaining popularity with newcomers to our hobby, and of course we hear from people who reached the permitted level of competence to gain access to HF and then buried their keys at the bottom of the garden who'd like to return to CW once again! I'd like to hear of your thoughts on the subject. You can reach me via the usual channels.

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Finally an article from Buddy W4YE. Which he got together for the FISTS NA Newsletter.  
Thanks to Buddy for letting me reproduce it here.

FISTS + WARC = FUN

Have you tried our WARC bands (30, 17 and 12 meters) lately? Sure conditions are not always the best but, there are lots of challenges and excitement on these bands. How fortunate we are to have these bands in addition to the traditional ones. At the urging of my good friend, Stan, K4UK I have spent a good part of my operating time on these bands.

This year 2007 has produced 500+ QSO's for me with old friends, new ones, and DX. The benefits of the WARC bands seem to me to be:

\*\* 30 meters, what a jewel! - a CW only band! Plenty of North American stations and good DX also. Generally open longer and more reliable than 17 meters at this time.

\*\* 17 meters, good DX at times, short skip/long skip, and many surprises.

\*\* 12 meters, the low point of Cycle 23 has been difficult but some N to S propagation is possible.

With Cycle 24 coming soon this could be a super band. It should perhaps mirror 10 meter conditions.

\*\* Propagation is most interesting on all bands these days. A CQ on a "dead band" WARC band might even produce a VK or ZL or JA contact.

\*\* Certificate hunters will surely try for WAS, WAC, DXCC, WAZ, and other awards.

\*\* FISTS members like fun and the WARC Band Challenge provides it in the form of seeking out not only members but also non-members for their grid squares.

Most transceivers operate on these WARC bands and antennas do not have to be elaborate. A vertical, a dipole, or a multi band dipole are most often used. Some stations use directional antennas, a real plus. QRP stations are having fun on the WARC bands too. Stan running QRP has worked many of the same stations that I work with 90 watts.

In keeping with FISTS goals of promoting CW, encouraging new CW hams, and fostering friendships, the WARC bands are just waiting for you!

73, Buddy, W4YE, FISTS 3929

Thanks to W4YE for a fine article.

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Here's the results for the ladder and WARC Activities.  
 Firstly, the ladder.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS
G4LHI	33	40	47	39	33	34	33	30	34	30	21		374
M5ABN	35	46	44	43	28	21	30	0	0	0	0		247
IK2RMZ	4	11	20	19	16	24	32	13	21	19	15		194
OH7QR	14	4	16	6	7	8	10	14	14	14	0		107
M0DRK	13	8	10	12	0	13	0	12	0	12	17		97
2E0TEK	8	0	14	24	12	21	10	0	0	0	0		89
G6GUN	26	30	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		88
M0JRQ	0	0	4	0	6	2	6	3	24	28	13		86
GM4WZL	0	0	21	35	8	8	0	0	0	0	0		72
G0MRH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	21	17	0		44
G8XGQ	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	4	15		37
2E0AYQ	9	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		19
PA1SOP	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		6
PA3AFF	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0		4

And now the WARC Activity.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	MULTI	MASTER	PWR
G4LHI	149	131	119	187	124	137	68	68	75	147	54		1259	76	95684	QRO
F2YT	431	575	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1006	70	70420	QRO
K4UK	55	99	30	97	49	34	56	41	58	67	31		617	108	66636	QRP
IK2RMZ	106	73	91	147	148	108	35	99	54	102	56		1019	59	60121	QRO
W4YE	26	28	14	42	18	54	62	52	29	156	76		557	59	32863	QRO
OH7QR	59	68	115	30	30	35	28	27	46	90	52		580	34	19720	QRO
W4FCR©	0	2	1	0	18	83	9	0	13	50	28		204	43	8772	QRO
DL1GBZ	0	0	0	46	57	22	66	70	20	33	19		333	19	6327	QRO
KA3NZR	5	24	7	27	9	8	2	0	35	55	6		178	27	4806	MIXED
K4ORD	4	20	21	16	6	21	15	4	0	20	2		129	25	3225	QRP
SM0PMJ	0	0	0	0	30	63	0	60	53	40	42		288	13	3744	QRO
2E0TEK	16	0	23	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		55	5	275	QRO
G8XGQ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	4		20	1	20	QRO
PA3AFF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0		2	1	2	QRO

That's all from me for another month. With Xmas appearing on the horizon, it's a busy time for all of us. Take care, enjoy your festive period.

73. MØBPT



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